

## Orthopaedic Referral Requirements

*Please note: Referrals can only be accepted from registered Medical Practitioners.*

**To ensure timely allocation of Outpatient appointments as directed by the Ministry of Health the referral must include:**

- The Patients full name (and aliases) and, if appropriate, the name of the parent or caregiver
- The patients address
- The patients phone number (home and alternative)
- The patients date of birth
- Hospital number (NHI) (if Known) and ACC number if appropriate
- Past history including details of previous treatment and investigation (photocopied results where appropriate) including X-rays, MRI's, CT's, Bonescans or Ultrasounds (X-rays for joint operations must be no more than 6 months old)
- Reports of any private or other orthopaedic opinions
- Presenting symptoms and their duration
- Physical findings
- Details of any previous treatment including topical and systemic medications given to the patient for the condition
- Details of any significant co-morbidities and treatment (e.g. Diabetes)
- Details of current medications, including pain relief regime and any drug allergies
- GP Diagnosis
- Patients current weight

A complete set of information as detailed above is required on all referrals to ensure that the patient is seen in a timely manner. Referrals that do not contain all necessary information will be returned to the referrer.

*Note: For orthotic services please refer directly to the Orthotic Department.*